

Steve Dale, CABC

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Canine Influenza Virus was a big pet story in 2015, as thousands of dogs were sickened, and some even died due to the emergence of a new strain of the dog flu. The dogs didn't have a chance to fend off the virus because they didn't have an immunity to fight the novel bug. The virus proved to be highly contagious and could be carried to pets on the clothing and hands of people who handled sick dogs. In addition, even after dogs appeared to have recovered, many dogs continued to shed the virus for much longer than typical.

The virus turned out to be H3N2 canine influenza from Southeast Asia. No one knows how H3N2 landed in the U.S. However, because so many dogs are still susceptible, and this flu can pack such a mighty punch – many veterinarians – including Dr. Natalie Marks in Chicago – suggest the vaccine for most dogs. Learn more by watching the video below.

If you have any questions or concerns, you should always visit or call your veterinarian – they are your best resource to ensure the health and well-being of your pets.